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Agenda item 9

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 7 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Further to my letter of 6 April 1999 regarding the crime committed by the rebel movement SPLM/A by executing four captives who were detained while on a humanitarian mission with the International Committee of the Red Cross, I enclose the statement issued by the United Nations Secretary-General on the subject.

I kindly request that it be circulated at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Ibrahim Mirghain IBRAHIM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Advocacy & External Relations Unit
Tel. 1-212-963-4832/2380; Fax: 1-212-963-1312

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESMAN OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6 April, 1999

The UN Secretary-General was deeply distressed by the news of the death of a Sudanese Red Crescent worker and of three Government officials last week while in the custody of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). The four Sudanese had been accompanying an ICRC team on mission near the southern Sudanese town of Bentiu on 18 February when they were detained by the SPLM/A. It is particularly disturbing that they died despite numerous appeals to their captors to ensure their physical safety. Their deaths illustrate yet again the tragic and urgent need for protection for those who are trying to aid the victims of conflicts.

The United Nations endorses the call by the ICRC for a full and immediate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding these deaths so that those responsible for such acts may be brought to justice. I extend my condolences to the families affected by this tragedy, to the ICRC and to the Sudanese Government.